

Atty. Docket No. YOR920000390US1  
(590.023)

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action dated February 28, 2005, pending Claims 1-15 were rejected and the rejection made final. In response Applicants have filed herewith an Amendment After Final and have amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 15. Applicants intend no change in the scope of the claims by the changes made by this amendment. It should be noted these amendments are not in acquiescence of the Office's position on allowability of the claims, but merely to expedite prosecution.

The disclosure stands objected to because it contains an embedded hyperlink or other form of browser executable code. Applicants have amended the specification with regards to this issue. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is hereby respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7, 8, 14, and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Woodland et al. Claims 2-6 and 9-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Woodland et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,272,462 to Nguyen et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections are hereby respectfully requested.

Comments made in the previous Amendment are equally applicable here. The present invention recognizes that it is possible to improve upon the performance of MLLR, even when the unsupervised transcription is mildly erroneous, by taking into account the fact that the initial transcription contains errors. This may be accomplished, for example, by considering not just the "1-best" (i.e., single best) transcription produced

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during the first pass decoding, but the top N candidates. (Page 3, lines 2-7) In producing word lattices, the present invention takes into account the language model probabilities (which are ignored in the MLLR formulation), by incorporating them into the transition probability corresponding to the transition from the final state of a word in the word graph to the initial state of the next connected word in the word graph. (Page 8, lines 11-14)

As best understood, Woodland et al. appears to be directed to, *inter alia*, using word lattices in vocabulary speech recognition systems. (Page 1135). In Woodland et al. HHM-1 models with tight pruning are used to give a rough initial transcription of the data. (*Id.*) Using the transcription from a second preliminary pass, MLLR adaptation is performed. These models are then used to generate word lattices using a bigram language model. (Pages 1135-36) There is no teaching or suggestion of using more than one transcription during adaptation as in the instant invention.

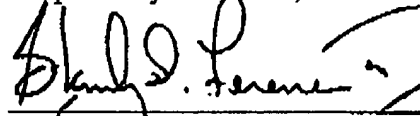
In the outstanding *Office Action*, the Examiner did not disagree with Applicants' arguments, but did not find them persuasive, because "the claims do not say anything about language model probabilities." (Page 8) In order to expedite prosecution, the independent claims have now been rewritten to specifically recite "generating a word lattice having a plurality of paths based on the speaker data, wherein the generation of the word lattice takes into account language model probabilities". (Claim1, emphasis added) Similar language appears in the other independent claims. As such, it is respectfully submitted the rejections have now been obviated.

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 fully distinguish over the applied art and are thus in condition for allowance. By virtue of dependence from what are believed to be allowable independent Claims 1, 8 and 15, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-7, and 9-14 are also presently allowable. In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 1-15, is presently in condition for allowance. Notice to the effect is hereby earnestly solicited.

Applicants note in the *Interview Summary* attached to the *Office Action* the Examiner remarked on the possibility of an additional interview after imposition of a final rejection. Applicants wish to note they have not been able to arrange for an additional interview prior to the submission of this Amendment After Final because the Examiner has been out of the Office on annual leave. Thus, if there are any further issues in this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below prior to the issuance of an Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



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